



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of

Applicant : M. W. Beach, et al.  
Serial No. : 09/244,304  
Filed : 3 Feb 1999  
Examiner : G. Akers  
Group : 2164  
Entitled : Preprocessor System and Method for Rejection of Duplicate Invoices  
Docket No. : END919980071US1

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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JUDITH A. BECKSTRAND

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#20  
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#19

05/29/02

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**Docket No.** : EN998071

**Assistant Commissioner For Patents**  
**Washington, D.C. 20231**

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8**

**I hereby certify that the following attached correspondence comprising:**

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION  
LETTER RE SECOND DRAFT/PROPOSED CLAIM 1 AND INTERVIEW  
SUMMARY**

**is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office,  
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**on 30 Jan 2002**  
*(date)*

**SHELLEY M BECKSTRAND**  
*(Typed or printed name of person signing certificate)*

*Shelley M Beckstrand*

*(Signature of person transmitting paper or fee)*

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Washington, DC 20231

LETTER RE SECOND DRAFT/PROPOSED CLAIM 1 AND  
INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Dear Sir:

Further responsive to the Advisory Action of 1/11/02 from  
Examiner Dr. G. Akers, and the telephonic interview of 1/17/02,  
Applicants submit the following proposed claim drafts.

*Interview Summary*

An Interview Summary prepared by Examiner G. Akers dated 1/17/02  
was mailed 1/18/02, indicating that Applicants are to provide a  
separate record of the substance of the interview. Applicants'  
attorney agrees with the substance as stated by the Examiner with  
respect to the 1/17/02 interview.

Subsequent to the interview of 1/17/02, Applicants' attorney  
faxed to the Examiner a proposed/draft claim 1 (see below), to which  
the Examiner replied by leaving a telephone message with Applicants'  
attorney on or about 1/18/02 to the effect that (1) a more specific  
definition of the net sum method is required, and (2) that he would  
have time to further consider the matter after the middle of

February.

**Claim 1 Draft 1**

Following is the first discussion draft for claim 1 previously provided to the Examiner.

1. [Thrice Amended, First Draft] Method for operating an account payable computing system, comprising the steps of:

preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable data base original electronic invoices received from a vendor by using a net sum method for detecting [to identify] duplicate invoices, said net sum method including identifying as duplicate invoices those invoices for the same vendor, invoice number, purchase order billed and items billed for which the net sum of invoiced amounts is greater than zero;

introducing invoices not identified as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base; and

electronically rejecting invoices identified as duplicate invoices back to said vendor without introducing said duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

**Claim 1 [Twice Amended] and Claim 12 [Draft]**

Claim 1 [Twice Amended] as currently entered in the case is set forth below, together with a new claim 12 [draft] depending therefrom which sets forth the specific steps used to determine duplicate invoices.

1. [Twice Amended] Method for operating an account payable computing system, comprising the steps of:

preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable data base original electronic invoices received from a vendor to identify duplicate invoices, including identifying as duplicate invoices those invoices for the same vendor, invoice number, purchase order billed and items billed for which the net sum of invoiced amounts is greater than zero;

introducing invoices not identified as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base; and

electronically rejecting invoices identified as duplicate invoices back to said vendor without introducing said duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

12. [Draft] The method of claim 1 [Twice Amended], said preprocessing step further including the steps of:

first sorting said original electronic invoices against production tables for same vendor and same vendor invoice number;

second sorting hits from said first sorting step for same purchase order billed;

third sorting hits from said second sorting step for same items billed on purchase order; and

fourth sorting hits from said third sorting step to determine those items having said net sum greater than zero.

The specific process of claim 12 [Draft] for calculating the net sum is set forth in applicants' Figure 2, which is described at page 11.

**Summary**

Both draft claims are submitted for discussion purposes only, without prejudice to further assertion, by appeal or otherwise, that Claim 1 (twice amended) should be allowed.

Applicants' attorney requests that the Examiner contact him at the number noted below before 11 Feb 2002 to determine if agreement can be reached as to the definition of allowable subject matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shelley M. Beckstrand", is written over a horizontal line.

Shelley M Beckstrand  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 24,886

Phone: 607 687-9913  
Fax: 607 687-7848

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DRAFT/PROPOSED CLAIM 1**

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TC2100 (After Final: Fax. No. 703 746-7238)

on 17 Jan 2002

(date)

SHELLEY M BECKSTRAND

(Typed or printed name of person signing certificate)



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DRAFT/PROPOSED CLAIM 1

Examiner Dr. Akers,

As we discussed earlier today, following is a draft/proposed claim 1 for your consideration.

1. [Thrice Amended] Method for operating an account payable computing system, comprising the steps of:

preprocessing before introduction into an accounts payable data base original electronic invoices received from a vendor by using a net sum method for detecting [to identify] duplicate invoices, said net sum method including identifying as duplicate invoices those invoices for the same vendor, invoice number, purchase order billed and items billed for which the net sum of invoiced amounts is greater than zero;

introducing invoices not identified as duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base; and

electronically rejecting invoices identified as duplicate invoices back to said vendor without introducing said duplicate invoices into said accounts payable data base.

Thank you.

Shelley M Beckstrand  
Attorney for Applicants  
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EN998071

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S/N 09/244,304